

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission
Proclamation 11-04
Statewide Big Game Hunting Seasons and Bag Limit
(Exclusive of Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges)

Pursuant to the authority granted by Tennessee Code Annotated Sections 70-4-107 and 70-5-108, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission hereby proclaims the statewide big game seasons and bag limits, effective August 1, 2011.

Section I. White-tailed Deer

A. White-tailed Deer Hunting Units

For the purpose of these hunting regulations and better wildlife management, the State of Tennessee is hereby divided into three (3) deer units, as follows:

Unit

- A. Bledsoe, Bradley, Clay, Crockett, Cumberland, DeKalb, Dyer, Grundy, Hamilton, Jackson, Lake, Lauderdale, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Overton, Putnam, Rhea, Roane, Sequatchie, Tipton, Van Buren, Warren, White.
- B. Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Fentress, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Pickett, Polk, Scott, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, Union, Washington.
- L. Bedford, Benton, Cannon, Carroll, Cheatham, Chester, Coffee, Davidson, Decatur, Dickson, Fayette, Franklin, Gibson, Giles, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, Marshall, Maury, McNairy, Montgomery, Moore, Obion, Perry, Robertson, Rutherford, Shelby, Smith, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Wayne, Weakley, Williamson, Wilson.

B. White-tailed Deer Bag Limits and Season Dates

1. Statewide - Antlered Buck Bag Limit

The statewide bag limit for antlered bucks in Tennessee is three (3). No more than one (1) antlered deer may be taken per day. The only way the bag limit of three antlered bucks may be exceeded is if bucks are taken on TWRA or NWR managed hunts where the bucks are noted as bonus deer in the section listing WMA regulations. Deer taken on Ft. Campbell are also bonus deer.

2. Statewide – Deer Seasons and Bag Limits:

Season Type	Season Dates	Antlered Bag Limit	Antlerless Bag Limits		
		Statewide	Unit L	Unit A	Unit B
Archery*	4 th Saturday in September to Jan. 1 st	3	3/day	4	2
Muzzleloader	3 rd Saturday before Thanksgiving to Jan. 1 st		3/day	4	See Section C
Gun	1 st Saturday before Thanksgiving to Jan. 1 st		3/day**	See Section D	See Section D
Young Sportsman***	Last weekend in October		3/day	2	1
	First weekend after Jan. 1 st		3/day	2	1

* Archery season is closed during the October Young Sportsman hunt.

** A Type 94 permit is required to hunt antlerless deer during this season except for landowners hunting under the landowner exemption (as described in T.C.A. 70-2-204), Sportsman license holders (including Lifetime Sportsman), and hunters who possess a Type 167 permit.

** Youths 6-16 years of age may participate. Young sportsmen must be accompanied by a non-hunting, adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device and who must also comply with fluorescent orange regulations, as specified for legal hunters. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult.

Note: The statewide antlered buck limit is three (3). Antlered deer must have antlers a minimum of three inches (3") in length on buck only or antlered only hunts. Antlerless deer are defined as deer with no antlers or deer with antlers less than three inches (3") in length.

C. Antlerless hunts during Unit B Muzzleloader.

The antlerless bag limit during the Unit B muzzleloader season is one (1) per hunter. This antlerless deer may be harvested under the guidelines listed below.

Unit B Counties	Either Sex Muzzleloader Hunting Days
Blount, Campbell, Carter, Cocke, Hamblen, Jefferson, Loudon, Sevier, Unicoi, Union, Washington	First five (5) days of muzzleloader season
Anderson, Claiborne, Fentress, Grainger, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Knox, Monroe, Morgan, Pickett, Polk, Scott, Sullivan	First fourteen (14) days of muzzleloader season

D. Non-Quota Antlerless White-tailed Deer Hunts

The following counties and portions of counties are open to antlerless deer hunting during the regular gun season as specified.

Non-quota Hunts -- *No hunter quota but a Type 94 permit is required except for landowners hunting on their own land, Sportsman license holders (including Lifetime Sportsman), and hunters who possess a Type 167 permit.*

Note: Unit A & B: the bag limit for each county for each non-quota hunt is defined in the Table.
Unit L: a hunter may harvest 3 antlerless deer per day during the regular gun season.

Deer Non-Quota Hunts							
Dates	Nov 19-20	Nov 21-27	Nov 28-Dec 4	Dec 5-16	Dec 17-18	Dec 19-25	Dec 26-Jan 1
COUNTY	NUMBER OF ANTLERLESS DEER PER HUNT						
Anderson					1		
Blount ¹					2		
Bradley		1				1	
Carter ²					1		
Claiborne					1		
Cocke ²					1		
Crockett	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
DeKalb							2
Dyer	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Grainger					1		
Greene ²					1		
Grundy					1		

Deer Non-Quota Hunts							
Dates	Nov 19-20	Nov 21-27	Nov 28-Dec 4	Dec 5-16	Dec 17-18	Dec 19-25	Dec 26-Jan 1
Hamblen					1		
Hamilton		1	1			1	
Hancock	1				1		
Hawkins	1				2		
Jefferson					1		
Johnson ²		2			2		
Knox					2		
Lake					2	2	2
Lauderdale	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Loudon					1		
McMinn		1				1	
Marion				1			
Meigs		1			1	1	
Rhea		1				1	
Roane		1				1	
Sevier					1		
Sullivan ²		2			2		
Tipton					2	2	2
Union					1		
Van Buren					1		
Warren						1	
White							1

¹ Blount County West of Highway 411 and east of Highway 129

² Excludes Cherokee WMA.

E. Claiborne County Special Red Deer Hunt

Allow taking of Red Deer in Claiborne county (south of Powell River and east of Hwy 25 E only). Hunters must submit any red deer harvested for biological sample collection at designated check stations on designated days or by calling the Region 4 Office to report a harvest.

Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery

Jan. 14-22, 2012

No limit - Either sex

Section II. Black Bear

A. Black Bear Bag Limits and Season Dates

The Following Counties Are Open For Bear Hunting:

Blount, Carter, Cocke, Greene, Jefferson (East of Hwy 411), Johnson, Monroe, Polk (that portion east of Hwy. 411 and north of Hwy. 64), Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington

Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery
(Dogs Permitted)

Oct. 31 - Nov. 3, 2011
1 per year-Either Sex

Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery
(Dogs Permitted)

Dec. 1-14, 2011
1 per year-Either Sex

Monroe, Polk (East of Hwy. 411 & North of Hwy. 64)

Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery (Dogs Permitted)	Oct. 1-2, 8-9, 2011 1 per year-Either Sex
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Blount, Carter, Cocke, Greene, Jefferson (East of Hwy 411), Johnson, Monroe, Polk (that portion east of Hwy. 411 and north of Hwy. 64), Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington

Archery Only (No Dogs)	Sep. 24– Oct. 21, 2011 1 per year-Either Sex
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Young Sportsman Hunt* (No Dogs)	Oct. 29-30, 2011 1 per year-Either Sex
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Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery (No Dogs)	Nov. 24-27, 2011 1 per year-Either Sex
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Blount, Cocke (South of I-40), Jefferson (East of Hwy 411), and Sevier

Gun-Muzzleloader-Archery (Dogs Permitted)	Sep. 26-Oct. 2, 2011 1 per year-Either Sex
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* Youths 6-16 years of age may participate. Young sportsmen must be accompanied by a non-hunting, adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device and who must also comply with fluorescent orange regulations, as specified for legal hunters. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult.

The Following Counties Are Open For A Bear Dog Training Season:

Blount, Carter, Cocke, Greene, Jefferson (East of Hwy 411), Johnson, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington

Aug. 27 - Sep. 18, 2011
No bears may be taken. No weapons may be possessed.

Monroe, Polk (East of Hwy. 411 & North of Hwy. 64)

Sep. 8-13, 2011
No bears may be taken. No weapons may be possessed.

B. Special Bear Hunting Regulations:

1. The limit of bears for any person participating in the statewide or managed hunts or both shall not exceed one (1) bear per calendar year.
2. Cubs or female bears with cubs at side may not be taken at any time. A cub is defined as any bear weighing seventy-five (75) pounds or less.
3. All harvested bears must be checked out at an official checking station (excluding internet). Bears may be whole or field dressed, but must weigh 75 pounds or greater when checked in.
4. The reproductive sex organs shall remain attached to each bear harvested at least until the bear has been officially checked out at an official bear checking station.

Section III. General Regulations for Spring Turkey Harvest

A. Prohibited Acts

1. The use of any type of food to feed or attract wild turkeys on WMAs. Shooting or stalking turkeys from a boat in Shelby, Dyer, Tipton, Lauderdale, Haywood or Obion counties prohibited. Calling or attempting to call wild turkeys using any call to mimic the sounds made by a wild turkey is prohibited from March 1st to the opening day of the spring turkey hunts on all WMAs.
2. A licensed turkey hunter, who has filled his/her bag limit or does not possess a valid permit for a quota hunt, may accompany another turkey hunter (except on WMAs where prohibited) and assist him/her in calling, but may not have a gun or bow in his possession.

B. Statewide Spring Turkey Season Dates

1. Spring Turkey Season Dates

March 31 through May 13, 2012

2. Statewide Young Sportsmen Hunt (6-16 years of age)

March 24-25, 2012 Youths must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device, who is not required to have a license. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult.

C. Spring Turkey Bag and Possession Limits

One (1) bearded turkey per day, not to exceed four (4) per season. Turkeys taken on all quota hunts and specially designated WMA's are bonus turkeys.

Young Sportsmen hunt - One (1) bearded turkey. Turkey counts toward statewide bag unless taken on WMA where turkey is listed as bonus bird.

D. Spring Turkey Shooting Hours

Thirty (30) minutes before sunrise to sunset

Section IV. Fall Turkey Hunting (Shotgun/Archery)

The following counties are open for fall turkey hunting. Bag limits for this season are defined by the following table. The bag limits listed in the table are for turkeys, either sex. If a county is listed in the table, one (1) turkey may be harvested with archery equipment during the deer/archery only season.

COUNTY	Oct. 15-28, 2011		COUNTY	Oct. 15-28, 2011
Anderson	1		Jackson	1
Bedford	6		Jefferson	1
Benton	1		Johnson	1
Blount	1		Knox	1
Campbell	1		Lawrence	6
Cannon	3		Lewis	3
Carroll	1		Lincoln	6
Carter	1		Macon	6
Cheatham	6		Marion	2

COUNTY	Oct. 15-28, 2011		COUNTY	Oct. 15-28, 2011
Chester	1		Marshall	6
Claiborne	1		Maury	6
Clay	1		McNairy	1
Cocke	3		Montgomery	6
Coffee	3		Moore	3
Davidson	6		Morgan	1
Decatur	1		Obion	1
DeKalb	2		Overton	1
Dickson	6		Perry	1
Fayette	1		Pickett	1
Fentress	1		Robertson	6
Franklin	6		Rutherford	6
Gibson	1		Scott	1
Giles	6		Sevier	1
Grainger	1		Smith	6
Greene	3		Stewart	1
Hamblen	1		Sullivan	3
Hancock	1		Sumner	6
Hardeman	1		Trousdale	6
Hardin	1		Union	1
Hawkins	3		Warren	2
Henderson	1		Washington	1
Henry	3		Wayne	6
Hickman	6		Weakley	1
Houston	1		White	2
Humphreys	1		Williamson	6
			Wilson	6

Section V. Special Regulations.

1. **Statewide - Big Game Tagging** – It is unlawful to move, transport, or field dress any big game animal, except for wild hogs without invalidating a properly completed temporary kill tag. If additional animals are to be harvested on that calendar day, the hunter is not required to stop hunting and tag the animal until he/she is ready to move, transport, or field dress the animal. All animals harvested must be accompanied by one animal with an invalidated temporary kill tag and must be checked in on that calendar day at a big game checking station or a TWRA internet site where one new temporary kill tag will be issued. It shall be illegal for the hunter to hunt on the subsequent calendar day(s) until the previously harvested animal(s) are checked in and a new temporary kill tag is issued. Evidence of species and sex must be available for inspection by Wildlife Officer or Agency designated personnel prior to issuance of permanent game tag. The permanent harvest tag is a legal document and must be signed by the hunter. By signing the permanent harvest tag, the hunter is affirming that the information, as it appears on the permanent tag, is correct and valid. The permanent game tag must remain with each carcass until final processing. Persons legally hunting without a license are also required to take any big game animal harvested to a check station. After receiving a temporary harvest tag from checking in their first kill, these persons must comply with all tagging regulations. All big game taken to a taxidermist to be mounted must be accompanied by documentation showing the permanent game tag number, checking station number, and date of kill.

2. For antlered bucks a legal antler point is a projection at least one inch long, measured from the tip of the point to the nearest edge of the beam, following the mid-line of the tine.
3. Deer and turkey defined as "bonus" animals do not count toward statewide, seasonal, or daily bag limits.



Section VI. Repeal of Prior Proclamations

This proclamation repeals Proclamation Nos. 06-10, 10-03 and 10-08.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission

William L Brown
Chairman

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of a proclamation lawfully promulgated and adopted by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission on the 20th day of May, 2011.



Tod Carter
Secretary

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 24 day of May, 2011.

Lisa Crawford
Notary Public

My commission expires: 5-5-15

Proclamation No. 11-04 received and recorded this 25 day of May, 2011; to be effective the 1 day of August, 2011.

Tre Hargett
Tre Hargett, Secretary of State

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